

Yuzhou Bai & Soren Edgren
H-85: The History of the Book in China
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1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Are there any readings that you would like to see added or removed in future years?*

1. {no response}
2. Very useful! Though they were quite lengthy and I would have appreciated being given access to the Google Drive much sooner.
3. Yes, they gave a good primer for a person like myself who was completely new to the subject matter. However, things were not completely clear until we got to class in person. I think some guiding questions that related directly to the course material to help us synthesize the required readings would have helped.
4. Pre-course reading assignments were quite comprehensive and useful. They included a lot of what, to me, counts as review material, but I imagine they were quite useful to those who had no background
5. The pre-course reading assignments are useful to get some context and background of the course. Maybe I didn't read the instructions correctly or maybe I missed it. I hope the instruction of the readings would be more clear. I didn't know if I should read everything and prepare myself before the course, or these readings were meant for the course session that I need to read every day after the course. I was a bit confused when I received the readings.
6. Yes, the pre-course reading assignments were very helpful in giving a general overview of Chinese book history. I think it would have been confusing to not have this kind of information.
7. The pre-course readings were useful! We did not refer to them directly in class, but they helped me come in with at least a preliminary exposure to some of the relevant vocabulary. I would have benefited from a recommendation of a brief overview of general Chinese history rather than the 500-page tome listed (which in the end I could not find time to read).
8. The reading list was very useful. Half of the literature was known to me, but it was good to read it again and refresh my knowledge. {private response}
9. Yes, the reading assignments were very useful for providing adequate context before starting the course.
10. Yes. They were useful to orient myself through the class, especially in providing extra context and defining some key terms.
11. Yes, they were helpful/useful.
12. Yes—I really appreciated getting a good chronological overview via readings especially as the course wasn't organized chronologically.

2) *What are your thoughts on the course workbook and/or other teaching materials distributed during class? Was the content appropriate and useful? Will it continue to be useful for you after the course?*

1. {no response}
2. Course workbook was extremely helpful!
3. The course workbook is an incredible resource that I see myself using in the future. Well organized and easy to read. Extremely useful and rich bibliographic reference resource if nothing else. However, it would be easier if the caption numbers were in the PowerPoint slides so photographs of the slides are easy to match to the captions later on.
4. The bibliography provided in the workbook is worth its weight in gold to me. Notes on PowerPoint slides and realia were also quite useful. It's a pity the slides themselves aren't made available, but I understand that not everything is free.
5. The workbook is fantastic! It is full of useful information and the reading lists are very important and helpful for continuing research on the topics. Still, I would like to know that we would receive a workbook in the course beforehand, that would be more helpful.
6. Exceptionally useful. I fully expect to be referring to this for many years.
7. The workbook was indispensable. Having the captions for the PowerPoints on paper in front of us was a very good system, and the bibliography will be a treasure for a long time. I also really appreciated the chronology in the appendix (though I wish I had seen sooner that it was there—my fault entirely) and I am sure I will benefit from the extensive vocabulary provided when I have a chance to go back over this week's learning.
8. The class was extremely well structured, the anecdotes brought the material to life, the material itself was valuable for learning and insightful.
9. The course workbook was an excellent tool throughout the course. The bibliographies and appendices are sure to continually provide knowledge long after the end of the course. I plan on looking through the Chinese books in my library's collection with the workbook on hand.
10. Workbook was excellent! I would keep it with me as a very useful source of reference in the future. The bibliography is super helpful. They also helped when taking notes in class.
11. Grateful that such a groundbreaking scholar in the field shared all this information with us.
12. The workbook is possibly the best thing I got from the course. I'm sure I'll continue to reference it for a long time. The bibliographies are excellent and the whole thing is well organized. Such a gift!

3) *Which aspects of the course were most intriguing and relevant for you as an individual? Did you walk away with any new insights, ideas, or project plans?*

1. {no response}
2. I definitely have a lot of new ideas for my teaching when I teach the History of Print.
3. Understanding what an “edition” means in Chinese books. I loved talking to my classmates—the information from the course as well as their expertise gave me new ideas for research topics.
4. Every single day was an enormous information download; despite taking notes, I worry about the amount which I will lose over time.

5. All of the course content is relevant. Especially the book culture in late Qing is directly relevant to the small collections in our library. The knowledge I've learned from the course would help me to work on the collection.
 6. I am interested in religious books and now feel like I understand how they fit into a more general book history. I was making notes about books and ideas that I will mention in different classes, and am planning to develop a course on religious books in China/East Asia. I am also now planning a colloquium with a colleague in medieval Christianity, in which we'll discuss examples comparatively.
 7. Because I came in with no background in East Asia, every session was full of intriguing and relevant information. One key takeaway is about the practical affordances of xylography, its flexibility, and its value.
 8. I walked away with a myriad of new insight, ideas, new knowledge, interests and enthusiasm.
 9. The most intriguing aspect of the course was easily the realia. It was a privilege being able to view such invaluable specimen. I walked away with many new insights on Chinese books.
 10. Book illustrations part. Yes. I learnt so much about bibliography in Chinese books and printing techniques. This will be used in my future scholarship.
 11. Just to have this amazingly important scholar share all this knowledge with us was such an honor.
 12. I entered the course hoping to learn specific information for cataloging certain books in my institution's collection, and got tons of useful info for that project plus lots more to think about. I think this course will prove helpful for me in my professional career broadly.
- 4) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*
1. {no response}
 2. {no response}
 3. Yes, I did. However it would be nice to learn more about cataloging and finding and processing bibliographic information about Chinese books in a library sciences oriented way.
 4. I learned much more than I had hoped to learn. I had selfishly hoped there would be more material pertaining to what we call "popular literature" of the late imperial period.
 5. Yes!
 6. Yes, the course fulfilled my expectations.
 7. Yes and yes! And then some. SE is a mine of information and stories, and while it sometimes felt like drinking from a fire hose (in the best possible way), I learned SO much. I was a little nervous about whether this course would be the right fit for me (again, expertise in a completely different part of the world), but SE (and YB) made the course entirely accessible. I also appreciate that they paid attention to the different interests of class members and answered our many questions with humor, grace, and patience.
 8. I learned much more than I could have ever hoped and wished for. It was a very intense, but high-level delightful learning experience.

9. Yes, the instructor is extremely knowledgeable and generous with answering questions.
10. Yes. Very much. SE and YB were very helpful and always welcomed questions.
11. Yes. Both SE and YB!
12. SE is full of stories and expertise, so just spending time with him in the classroom is a privilege.

5) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. I plan to use it to help me process Chinese language books mid-twentieth century and older.
4. Immediately and in my professional capacity as a scholar. I will be applying bibliographic knowledge obtained here to my next two articles, and subsequently to the book project I've got going.
5. As said before, I am working on a small Chinese old book collection mostly published in and after the late Qing period. The skills and knowledge I've learned would help me to set up a background and also help me understand the collection in depth.
6. I plan to use what I learned primarily in teaching.
7. I will add so much of what I learned this week directly to my one-semester undergraduate book history course, which has so far focused only on the West. I took the course with the explicit aim of doing exactly that, and I believe I will be able to do it. More immediately, I am excited to go back to my institution's tiny number of East Asian items and look at them with new understanding.
8. I can use them daily with displaying and explaining printed artworks.
9. I would like to review the Chinese books collection in my library and evaluate them based on what I learned here.
10. I will use them to help me teach an undergrad class at my home institution.
11. Every day in class and in my research.
12. Cataloging rare books, considering future careers interests, artistic inspiration

6) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*

1. {no response}
2. Anyone working on the history of the book who would like Eastern perspectives, and, of course, people working on East Asian books.
3. People who need introductory information on Chinese books. Probably not advanced enough for more high-level academics or librarians who already have subject area knowledge.
4. Many sorts of people—scholars, librarians, teachers, book sellers, aficionados.
5. Librarians and scholars and graduate students
6. Honestly, I think everyone in premodern Chinese studies should take this course. We encounter so many texts digitally or divorced from their original material form that it seems really important to understand how someone in (say) the Song dynasty would have encountered a scripture, or a collection of poems.

7. Anyone who has even a slight interest in East Asian book history would benefit. We had a very professionally diverse group, and that was a real strength of the course in itself but I think also testifies to the wide array of folks who could benefit.
8. People of all ages and from all walks of life, from professionals to amateurs.
9. Cataloguers of Chinese rare books as well as collectors. Conservators as well.
10. Those interested in xylography, Chinese and East Asian book history.
11. Anyone interested.
12. Scholars but not necessarily librarians, this class (unsurprisingly) does not include specific info about cataloging Chinese books.

7) *If applicable, what were the most original, powerful, or otherwise noteworthy educational moments in the course? Were there any “aha!” moments you’d like to share?*

1. {no response}
2. Sören's anecdotes were delightful and also extremely enlightening. He was a wealth of knowledge every day, on every subject—his anecdotes inspired many “aha!” moments.
3. SE's anecdotes were really great and really added a lot of color to the course. I think seeing diagrammed aspects of Chinese books in person after seeing them only on guides was really nice. I liked the encouragement to physically interact with the realia.
4. I'd never had a hands-on, concrete understanding of how Chinese xylographic printing was done. Holding the brushes and burnishers and gouges, feeling the cut blocks, watching the paper laid and pulled changed my entire conception of the process.
5. The noteworthy moment is definitely how knowledgeable the instructor is! The anecdotes he shared were not only so fascinating, but also very informative and important for doing research!
6. Seeing the Diamond Sutra printed in red and black—this was a wonderful visual of how Buddhist commentaries worked, with a good deal of commentary on the characters of the title and then a switch to longer sections of original text and less commentary. I took photos that will be great teaching images (credited to RBS, of course).
7. Rice paper is neither rice nor paper! (Okay, I already knew it was not rice.) Xylography makes so much more sense than letterpress for a non-alphabetic language. There are fascinating parallels between European and Chinese book history even as they're also quite distinct from each other.
8. Too many to count.
9. Too many to share.
10. When I learnt what traces to look for when trying to differentiate xylography and movable type printing.
11. Listening to the instructors and seeing the materials.
12. {no response}

8) *Are there any other ways in which the course could have been improved?*

1. {no response}

2. Additional Chinese language assistance for non-Chinese speakers/readers in the advance readings; maybe slightly less material that could be given more time and depth (it seemed like we moved very quickly and were usually rushed).
3. {no response}
4. It's hard, but: pass out realia across *quadrants* of the classroom, not just at either end, in order to get things flowing smoothly and avoid traffic jams.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. I would have loved to learn more about the social history—who was doing the labor, who was doing the reading—and I also would have liked to know more about the transition from (mostly) traditional printing to (mostly) Western-style (left-to-right, horizontal) printing. On the other hand, I learned so much and our sessions were so full, that these are more notes for my own future reading than critiques. There's nothing I would give up in order to add that material. I thought this course was well designed and well run. {private response}
8. The course was perfect in every way and in all aspects.
9. N/A.
10. I think it's really perfect already.
11. N/A.
12. Share the slides with students. {private response}

9) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? How likely are you to recommend this course to others? On a 1-10 scale, 1 would indicate that you disagree that you got your money's worth, 5 would indicate a neutral response, and 10 would indicate that you agree that you got your money's worth.*

1. 7
2. 8
3. 8
4. 10
5. 10
6. 10
7. 10
8. {no response}
9. 10
10. 10
11. 10
12. 7

10) *If your course made any (virtual) field trips outside of the classroom or had guest speakers, do you feel that they enhanced the course experience?*

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. NA
4. {no response}
5. {no response}

6. N/A. Although the brief tour of the conservation lab over lunch was very intriguing, and I would have loved to learn more.
7. We did not have field trips or guest speakers, but it was great to get to see SSC materials beyond the RBS collection and very nice that SC came to us so that we could see those materials as we went through the week instead of devoting one block of time to a field trip.
8. {private response}
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. N/A
12. N/A

11) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {no response}
2. Do the advance readings, maybe look up useful Chinese book terminology, learn something about major texts and authors, memorize the Dynasties and their date ranges.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. The content of the course is very dense. Prepare yourself with lots of coffee if needed!
6. Highly recommend!
7. I would say to anyone that is hesitant: if you are at all interested, take the course. It is probably helpful to have either some knowledge of East Asian language/history/culture OR some Western book history knowledge, but it is definitely not necessary to have both. I'm sure I missed some richness that those with Chinese-language skills got, but even without any EA language ability, I learned so much and found the course so accessible and so useful.
8. [Come well-read]
9. {no response}
10. {no response}
11. Thank you.
12. {no response}

12) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*

1. {no response}
2. Delightful, enlightening, rigorous!
3. Informative course with a major benefit of connecting you with likeminded people across the country.
4. Haiku, by the way, are three lines of eight beats in total, which include three beats of silence in lines one and three, and one beat of silence in line two. Xylograph: tones sound in grained wood, brush, soft mallet mind's vaulted chapel.
5. In Chinese we say something like a good teacher is a person who is able to lead the students into a new subject and inspire their interests on the subject so that they

can learn more on themselves. This is the exact experience of the RBS course I've taken.

6. {no response}
7. So much richness, so many stories, so little time, so much learning. Thank you, RBS!
8. Superb!
9. I greatly appreciated my time here and would definitely return in the future!
10. Take it and you won't regret it!
11. Thank you for this experience and for your kindness and generosity.
12. Wonderful!